

Serial No. 09/917,428

Docket No. 10008368-1

REMARKS

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 32-37 have been canceled. No claims have been amended or added. Claims 18-22 and 25-31 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicated that claims 18-22 and 25-31 have been allowed.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 32-35 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the German Offenlegungsschrift DE 19914681 ("the DE 19914681 publication"). Claim 36 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the DE 19914681 publication. As claims 32-37 have been canceled, the rejections of claims 32-37 have been rendered moot.

Applicant notes for the record that the cancellation of claims 32-37 is not an acquiescence to rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Rather, claims 32-37 have been canceled in order to expedite the issuance of a patent including allowed claims 18-22 and 25-31. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue patent protection for, *inter alia*, the inventions defined by claims 32-37 in a continuation application.

III. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned

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representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

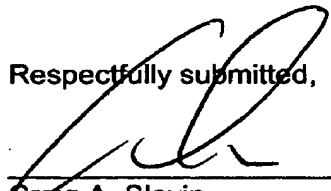
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

10/27/05

Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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